

VIA: AIR  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. SGAA-16761

CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 25 JUL 1955

TO : Chief, SE

FROM : Chief C

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OBHUNT/OBSIDIOUS

SPECIFIC— Training and Mounting OBSIDIOUS 19 June Mission

REF: SGAA 15892, 31 May 1955  
SGAA 16562, 14 July 1955

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
KAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

Action Requested: None; for information and files.

Synopsis:

1. Team trained from 3 to 14 June at CBATLANTIS.
2. Mission successfully infiltrated on 19 June as scheduled.
3. HENRIBOOK assistance and cooperation rated excellent.

Summary of Training:

1. The training of the BMDOLLAR and AEBLOFF, members of the OBSIDIOUS Team, began on 3 June 1955. The training, conducted by the CBOPUS Operations Section, continued without interruption through 14 June.

2. No major problems or handicaps were encountered by C 31 or C 7 the training officers, during the entire training program.

3. The training program was organized and conducted in the same manner as the program drawn up by the training officers of the WEDNESDAY Team. Copies of the schedules and material utilized were forwarded with SGAA 16301, 27 June 1955. Charts and training manuals were used in addition to the aforementioned material.

Scope of Training:

4. Considering the experience, and past training of the men, and the nature of the operation, physical conditioning, weapons and specific clandestine techniques were stressed. The following were covered as refresher or review subjects with the emphasis as mentioned.

- a. Physical conditioning
- b. Clandestine activities; personal contact, use of signals, dead drop, courier, emergency contacts, etc.
- c. First Aid
- d. Water discipline
- e. Weapons; Schneisser, pistol, grenade

DESENSITIZED

per CSN 42-48

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- f. Night marching, fighting techniques
- g. Border crossing
- h. Dogs

Training Evaluation of Agents:

5. In keeping with his general characteristics and past performances, ENDOLEAR viewed the training phase as an excellent and vital necessity for his team-mate AIRBLOOM but hardly needed by a man of ENDOLEAR's experience and ability. It was only after the application of firm insistence coupled with direct orders that he was made to realize the training officers would not tolerate anything less than full cooperation on the part of both team members. Every consideration was given the fact that he had recently undergone an operation.

6. AIRBLOOM approached every phase of his training with his usual seriousness, desire to learn and do well. During training he revealed for the first time he was having trouble with his knee. When asked why he had not mentioned it to the doctor when examined just prior to departure for training he stated he felt it would improve and didn't want to hold up the mission in any way. Throughout training he appeared to be experiencing trouble but did not drop out from any marches or calisthenics. Upon his return to Athens, he was again examined by [ ] who reported him fit for his mission.

7. Regardless of the above, both men learned quickly and benefited from the training and outdoor conditioning. In operational discussions dealing with specifics of his mission, ENDOLEAR was always attentive and very much concerned. AIRBLOOM to date, has failed to demonstrate qualities of leadership or ability to take over the operation in the near future.

Mounting of the Mission:

8. June 14: At 2000 hours, the team, accompanied by [ ] and [ ] departed ORATLANTIS on the support vessel and proceeded to a pre-arranged rendezvous on the mainland.

9. The group arrived at the rendezvous point at 2300 hours where they were met by [ ] and [ ]. With the exception of [ ] the party proceeded on foot to the panel truck located at a secure spot inland. [ ] continued on with the vessel to the Engineer School near the Corinth Canal.

10. June 15: With [ ] riding in the rear with the agents, [ ] and [ ] alternated driving the panel truck to Athens. [ ] in a station wagon, trailed the truck as insurance against a breakdown. The group arrived in Athens about 0300 hours and the team was installed at the "Dig" safehouse.

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11. June 16: [ ] and [ ] held a discussion concerning the intelligence [ ] had received and the arrangements he had made with the Ioannina unit of HBHADDOCK.

- a. Rendezvous with HBHADDOCK vehicle on 18 June to effect transfer of team.
- b. HBHADDOCK vehicle to transport team to Filiates Battalion Headquarters.
- c. From Smerto, the team would continue on foot, in darkness to avoid detection by the Albanian border posts.
- d. The Skala Sayada Post would notify HBHADDOCK in Ioannina of the exfiltration of the team and estimate the time the team will arrive at Ioannina Airfield.

12. The team was briefed on their mission once again by [ ] and [ ]. A final check was made of their clothing and equipment and both men were issued "L" capsules, gold and lek.

13. June 17: [ ] departed for Ioannina via commercial airline to coordinate HBHADDOCK participation. The team, conducted by [ ] and [ ] departed Athens by operational vehicle for the drive to the rendezvous point. The group arrived in the area at 2200 hours and spent the night in an isolated haystack.

14. June 18: Prior to the arrival of the HBHADDOCK escort, the team was briefed once more and gave ample evidence they understood their orders.

15. At 1030 hours the HBHADDOCK vehicle with [ ] AILENT and AIPRATE arrived at the designated meeting site. A brief discussion was held between [ ] [ ] AILENT, AIPRATE and [ ] during which the infiltration procedure was re-examined. The team disguised as Greek soldiers was transferred to the covered HBHADDOCK vehicle, and accompanied by [ ] and AIPRATE, moved toward the border.

16. AILENT presented the HBHADDOCK questionnaire as was arranged with [ ] [ ]. The questions were as follows:

- a. Important construction in the area of Sarande.
- b. Movement of Greek Communists, guerrillas or agents in the area of Konispol.
- c. Security measures in Konispol area.
- d. Military units and installations in Konispol area.

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17. Upon arrival at Battalion Headquarters of Filiates, [ ] gave AIPRATE a list of prepared questions regarding latest border intelligence. In an hour AIPRATE returned with the requested information and advised that further details would be furnished by border patrols. However, for the first time, [ ] was advised the Albanian Army units of Konispol had been carrying out night maneuvers for the last ten days between the hours of 2000 and 2200.

18. The group arrived in darkness at Smerto and continued the trip on foot. From this point, the noise of motor vehicles can be detected by the Albanian post of Likojanit. The group passed through Sayada about 2400 hours and continued towards the infiltration area.

19. June 19: At 0300 hours the escorting detail and the team arrived at point R-412532 and established camp. The team rested throughout the day while the escorting officer conducted a survey and inquiry in the area. It was further determined that:

- a. The Albanian post at Skembi (R-403553) was still abandoned.
- b. No serious obstacles (artificial) would be encountered between points (R-400549) and (R-410544), the infiltration area.
- c. Special thorn fences exist between (R-412544) and (R-417544). Plowed strips of land, for the detection of foot-prints, can be observed from (R-410544) to (R-425543). The strips are approximately 6 to 8 meters wide.
- d. No sheep were to be seen in the plain of Konispol and the winter grazing areas were deserted.

20. Details were arranged between the escort officer and the advanced Greek post for the timely recognition of the team. The personnel of the post did not see the team and the sergeant in command was only informed that G2 of the battalion had sent a special patrol to the area.

21. At dusk, the team assembled their equipment and started towards the border. The escort advanced with the team to point (R-407537) where final instructions were given. At 2050 hours the team proceeded on its own. The three members of the escorting detail went to point (R-405543) and observed the area until 2400 hours and then returned to the Greek post.

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22. June 20: During the day, ALPRATE and [ ] went to the Greek post of Arkhoudi from where the area is well observed. At 1300 hours the observer at the post observed six soldiers and an officer heading towards the infiltration point. Due to the fact the detail advanced unusually close to the border, the battalion was immediately notified. The enemy detail occupied itself for two hours digging at the exact spot the team had infiltrated the night before.

Team Return to Athens:

23. June 22: The team exfiltrated and reported to the advanced post in Greece at 0300 hours. The soldiers of the post fed and rested the team. ALPRATE contacted Ioannina and made arrangements for the team's return. [ ] telephoned AUSEBON in Athens to advise the hour the plane should arrive in Ioannina.

24. At 1500 hours the team was met outside the Ioannina airfield by [ ] and ALIMENT. ALIMENT questioned REDOLLAR on the questions submitted previously. The team was delivered to the operational plane directly from the covered HSHADDOCK vehicle. The plane, with [ ], [ ], [ ] and the team arrived in Athens at 1730 hours. The team and [ ] changed to civilian clothes and were returned to the "Dig" safehouse.

Comment:

25. During the mounting and return after the exfiltration the team conducted itself commendably. The participation and cooperation of HSHADDOCK and ALPRATE in particular, was excellent. HSHADDOCK refrained from questioning the team until [ ] arrived to meet the team at Ioannina. The questions were strictly limited to those presented in the questionnaire by previous agreement. One point that could warrant some criticism is the failure to report enemy night maneuvers mentioned in para 17 above. Fortunately, the maneuvers ceased on the night the team infiltrated.

19 July 1955

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